

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR, US (KING, LARRY)

SUBJECT:GOVERNOR BROWN AND LARRY KING: WORLD TEAM TENNIS
PROPOSAL WITH SOVIETS

REF: MOSCOW 2764; STATE 41716, AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPT TODAY ADVISED BY BOTH STANLEY MALLESS AND LARRY KING THAT ILTF PRESIDENT DEREK HARDWICK HAS SENT FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN TELEGRAM TO BOTH SOVIET SPORTS FEDERATION AND US TENNIS ASSOCIATION: BEGIN TEXT: "TEAM MATCHES BETWEEN COUNTRIES DO NOT REQUIRE ILTF SANCTIONS." END TEXT.

2. DEPT HAS ALERTED SOV EMB IN WASHINGTON TO FACT THAT ILTF HAS SENT CITED MESSAGE. SOV EMB OFFICER STATED THIS WOULD BE ENCOURAGING NEWS, BUT STRESSED THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT REACTION OF SOVIET SPORTS FEDERATION.

3. DEPT HAS BEEN IN CONTINUAL CONTACT WITH LARRY KING, WHO PERSONALLY IS NOT SURE IF ABOVE STANCE BY ILTF WILL

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SATISFY ALL NEEDS ON THE PART OF SOVIETS. KING INDICATED

TO DEPT THAT HE WILL SUGGEST TO SOVIET SPORTS OFFICIALS
GALENKO AND FOMENKO THAT USSR SPORTS FEDERATION MAKE
OFFICIAL INVITATION TO ILTF PRESIDENT HARDWICK AND TO
THE SIX OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ILTF PRO TENNIS COUNCIL

(WHICH INCLUDES MALLESS AND JACK KRAMER AS MEMBERS)
TO ATTEND MOSCOW MATCHES AS OBSERVERS.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE OF FACT THAT COMPLICATIONS
STILL EXIST. ACCORDING TO BOTH MALLESS AND KING, FACT
STILL REMAINS THAT ILTF PRO TENNIS COUNCIL HAS MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 8 THRU 10 IN LONDON. IF THAT MEETING
SCHEDULE REMAINS FIRM, USTA PRESIDENT MALLESS FEELS HE
CANNOT, RPT CANNOT, ATTEND MOSCOW MATCHES. MALLESS
HOPEFUL THAT IF SOVIETS DO ACTUALLY INVITE HARDWICK AND
THE PRO TENNIS COUNCIL TO MOSCOW, THEN CHANCES ARE
THAT MALLESS CAN ACCEPT AMBASSADOR'S INVITATION AS GUEST
OF EMBASSY. DEPT CONFIRMS THAT MALLESS FULLY
UNDERSTANDS THAT EMBASSY INVITATION FOR VISA PURPOSES,
AND MR. AND MRS. MALLESS WILL STILL HAVE TO STAY IN HOTEL.

5. LARRY KING EXPECTS TO PLACE DIRECT PHONE CALL TO
GALENKO AND FOMENKO DURING EVENING (PHOENIX LOCAL TIME)
OF FEB 25. KING EXPECTS TO STRESS CONTINUED NEED FOR
SOVIET SIDE TO INDICATE ITS INTERESTS TO ILTF. KING AND
MALLESS HAVE BOTH INDICATED TO DEPT THAT ONE OF THE
PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET-ILTF RELATIONS HAS BEEN FACT THAT
SOVIETS HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONDING TO VARIOUS LETTERS AND
CABLES FROM HARDWICK DURING RECENT WEEKS, AND THIS LACK
OF RESPONSE AFFECTED ILTF STANCE TOWARD MATCHES. KING
PLANS TO URGE SOVIETS TO MAKE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO
HARDWICK FEB 25 CABLE.

6. FYI: LARRY KING ALSO MENTIONED TO DEPTOFF THAT ONE OF
COMPLICATING FACTORS HAS BEEN THE 1974 ILTF
"AMSTERDAM RESOLUTION," WHICH IN EFFECT STATED THAT
WORLD TEAM TENNIS IS A SPORTS EVENT OUTSIDE OF THE TENNIS
FRAMEWORK, AND IN EFFECT CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE SPORT,
SUCH AS SQUASH OR PADDLE TENNIS CONSTITUTE. END FYI.

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7. DEPT WILL CONTINUE TO ADVISE AS MORE DETAILS KNOWN. KISSINGER

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